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WNTC-WRPS MERGER STATE'S VIEW

by Barbara Segura

A proposal to merge WRPS and WNTC had been passed by the ICRN board on March 9 and was given to Andy Davidson, General Manager of WRPS for consideration.

This proposal stated: "That the stations currently known as WRPS and WNTC, be merged in both staff and management into a new integrated radio station under the auspices of the Inter-College Radio Network, and apply for membership in the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

That the main broadcasting facilities be those currently occupied by WRPS, or expanded facilities on the SUCP campus.

That the SGA of Potsdam State actively support expansion of these facilities.

That the SGA provide funds for and approve of this organization making alterations to improve the aforementioned studios and facilities.

That the SGA support requests for and subsequent approval by pertinent college officials for independent access to these facilities and studios on a twenty four hour basis.

That this organization retain the right to build, repair, or alter all technical equipment.

That this organization retain the right to purchase goods for such facilities through either school.

That this organization will supply increased coverage of campus events and provide no duplication of programming.

That this organization will broadcast SUCP sports, especially basketball.

That the assets of WRPS will revert to the ICRN and shall be used solely by the new station on the State campus.

That providing this proposal is approved by April 15, 1975,

full time operations from the new Potsdam State facilities will commence by January 31, 1976.

Passed by the ICRN Executive Committee, March 9, 1975.

When Mr. Davidson received the proposal from ICRN he had to call an emergency staff meeting and try to come up with a decision one way or the other. The staff flatly turned it down.

On March 11, and 13, the SGA budget committee met.

"Senator Henry (Albrigo) moved that there be a merger of WRPS and WNTC, as stated in the proposal presented to the Senate on March 11. To this end: that the amount of money approved by Finance Committee for WRPS be added to the ICRN budget. Be it directed that the Executive Committee of the two stations draw up a budget and proposal of merger by May 1, for approval by both the Senates of SGA and CCSA. If the proposal and budget are not approved then the budgets for ICRN and WRPS are approved as they were recommended from Finance Committee. Should there be a merger, the budget line items specifically applicable to WTSC are approved as recommended by Finance Committee." (The Budget Hearings of 3/11).

Senators Ambler (Goldberg) moved that should no proposal be submitted by May 1, that funds for both stations be put into escrow until such a proposal is submitted. This motion was defeated 11-11-2, the chair voting nay and the motion died. (The Budget Hearings of 3/13)

Mr. Davidson commented, "The majority of opinion of concerned people at the station, voted against the merger, mainly because it was brought up in such a hurry. Also, the proposal brought forth was ambiguous. I

The WNTC Situation

by Charles Barker

Last Tuesday the Potsdam State Senate Finance Committee voted to accept the merger of WNTC and WRPS (State's on-campus radio station) under the condition that the executive committees of both stations present a proposal of merger and combined budget to both SGA and CCSA for approval by May 1. The WRPS staff turned the proposal down with a vote of 3-15-0 and there are mixed sentiments at WNTC.

WNTC was originally started to serve both State and Clarkson campuses. Even though it was first funded by State, it was somewhat taken over by Clarkson and funded jointly through ICRN. Because of this, State decided to set up WRPS to allow its students to work with broadcasting facilities on campus. Since then, State has been see-sawing funds between WNTC and WRPS—one of the main reasons for the merger.

Reasons for the merger are lack of funds, and the increase of equipment and services due to the pooling of resources of both stations. Problems include lack of room for equipment in the Union, cost (\$2,500) of rebuilding studios, and the fact that it is difficult for Clarkson students to get back and forth to State.

If the merger goes through, the combined stations plan to be on the air by January 31, 1976. The merger is still dependent, however on the actions of the CCSA and SGA and whether the students of both campuses will support the new station.

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don't think it should have been brought up to the Senate without the support of both staffs. WNTC was by no means totally behind this. I am not dead set against merging, but at the present time, I am not for it. There is a lot to consider and Senate is giving us time to consider, which is good. But they still are trying to force us to merge. I believe it could be compared to forcing the RAQUETTE and THE INTEGRATOR to merge. Senate is definitely trying to influence the media on what to do. The merger would save money for SGA, approximately \$3,000, but compared to the whole SGA budget it isn't that much. I also don't like the whole idea that had there been no threatened cut to WNTC's budget, more than likely this wouldn't have come up this year. I feel that this year WRPS has made quite a bit of progress. The reason it was formed 8 years ago was to have a primarily Potsdam State radio station. Also because WNTC was predominantly staffed by Clarkson, and it still is at the present. I have pride in the station and I'd like to see it remain as it is."